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apolis. Since the first introduction of a few straggling specimens, the plant has spread so as to become a nuisance in the elevator districts on the outskirts of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Specimens have been found also in several other localities in Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota counties.

EDMUND P. SHELDON.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Nov. 12, 1895.

I found this plant in considerable quantities along the railroad at Port Arthur, Lake Superior, in September, 1889. We also have a specimen of it collected at Danville, Quebec, in 1894.

N. L. BRITTON.

Reviews.

Synoptical Flora of North America: Vol. I. Part I. Fascicle I. Polypetalae from the Ranunculaceae to the Frankeniaceae. By Asa Gray, LL. D., and Sereno Watson, Ph. D., continued and edited by Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, Ph. D. (Issued October 10, 1895.)

The second volume of this work was published some years since, in two parts, the first part appearing in the year 1884, while the second was issued in 1878. In 1886 a revised edition of these two parts with an appendix of additions and corrections was issued by the Smithsonian Institution. The first fascicle of part I., volume I., has now been issued from the University press at Cambridge after a lapse of eleven years. Dr. Robinson is to be congratulated on the completion of the pages under consideration and we are promised a second fascicle in the near future. The bulk of the matter was written by Dr. Gray; Dr. Watson subsequently took up the work and continued it until his death; since then Dr. Robinson has completed parts left unfinished by the other authors, besides editing their manuscripts by bringing together facts of recent discovery, mostly in the form of foot-notes.

The pages contain a vast amount of useful and valuable information and the book will be welcomed by everyone. Together with the many good qualities of this issue appear the same faults that characterize the second volume. After a general key to the families, the Ranunculaceae are taken up, and other families fol-

low on the old Candollean sequence to Frankeniaceae inclusive. It is to be regretted that so great a work must be continued on a system of classification which has proved itself inadequate. The want of system in the matter of nomenclature is also to be regretted, for here, as in the former parts, sentiment is the predominating guide in place of rule.

The generic limits as a rule are well taken; some genera, however, are too composite according to modern ideas. The interpretation of species is in many cases not as good as our present knowledge would permit. In *Clematis*, *C. Addisonii* is taken up in its proper place, but *C. viornoides*, a very distinct form, if not a good species, is merely hinted at. *Clematis ovata* is reduced to *C. ochroleuca*, a position not warranted by the abundant specimens of recent collection. The author, following Coulter, has reduced *Clematis Scottii* to a variety of *C. Douglasii*; to be consistent why not reduce *C. Catesbiana* to a variety or state of *C. Virginiana*? In *Ranunculus* we find *R. Allegheniensis* Britton inserted as a species, while *R. micranthus* Nutt. stands as a variety of *R. abortivus* L. In *Aquilegia*, *A. saximontana* Rydberg is published for the first time and well distinguished from the related *A. brevistyla* Hook. Very scant courtesy is paid to *A. Canadensis flaviflora*, but almost immediately following we find *A. caerulea* var. *albiflora* A. Gray, described as a new variety (while there are at least two published available specific names for it), and its characters as given separate it from the type in only just the same degree that differentiates *flaviflora* from *Canadensis*. We can only assume that the editor holds a color variety proposed by Gray to be valid, while rejecting one maintained by others. On page 76, *Nymphaea odorata* var. *minor* appears in the old stereotyped form. Why should this state be called a variety when it is the original of the species *odorata*? If a variety must be maintained it should be done in a consistent way. Little recognition is given an apparently distinct species of *Castalia* from Florida and adjoining territory. The editor says "this form has been confidently identified with *N. reniformis* Walt. by the collector, . . . a disposition in no sense warranted by the brief and wholly dubious characterization of Walter's species." If there were nothing but Walter's description to support Mr. Nash's position, it certainly would be weak, but

careful field observations, morphological characters separating the form from related species, and the fact that the plant is very common in Walter's region, furnish pretty strong evidence in favor of its correct identification. So other cases might be cited. The geographic ranges of many species as given are too restricted, as a few appended examples will show, and no data bearing on altitudinal distribution are furnished.

Clematis Viorna. Common east of the mountains as far south as middle Georgia.

Clematis Addisonii. Also in the Cumberland Mountains, Tennessee.

Clematis Douglasii Scottii. Also in Montana and Dakota.

Clematis verticillata. Occurs in southwestern Virginia.

Clematis alpina tenuiloba. Also in Colorado.

Thalictrum coriaceum. Also in the Cumberland Mountains, Tennessee.

Myosurus minimus. Occurs in southeastern Virginia.

Ranunculus recurvatus. Also in Montana.

Ranunculus abortivus micranthus. Common south to southern Pennsylvania.

Ranunculus septentrionalis. West to Nebraska.

Caltha palustris. Also west to Nebraska.

Aconitum Columbianum. East to the Black Hills, South Dakota.

Cimicifuga racemosa cordifolia. Occurs in the mountains of Virginia.

Xanthorrhiza apiifolia. Ranges east of the mountains and as far south as middle Georgia.

Delphinium tricornis. Occurs as far west as Nebraska.

Delphinium exaltatum. Also west to Nebraska.

Magnolia tripetala. Grows as far south as middle Georgia.

Asimina triloba. Occurs east to New Jersey and west to Nebraska.

Asimina angustifolia. Rather common as far north as middle Georgia.

Brasenia Schreberi. Also south to Georgia and Florida.

Menispermum Canadense. Occurs west to Nebraska.

Berberis repens. Ranges east to the Black Hills, South Dakota.

Argemone alba. Grows in southwestern South Dakota.

Dicentra Canadensis. Occurs in Nebraska.

Corydalis curvisiliqua. East to Louisiana and Florida, also north to Nebraska.

Corydalis aurea occidentalis. Common in Nebraska.

Arabis dentata. Occurs west to Nebraska.

Arabis laevigata. Also south to middle Georgia and west to the Black Hills, South Dakota.

Arabis Holboellii. Ranges east to Nebraska.

Lesquerella Ludoviciana arenosa. Occurs in the Black Hills, South Dakota.

Physaria didymocarpa. Grows in Nebraska.

Nasturtium sessiliflorum. Ranges west to Nebraska.

Cristatella Jamesii. Common in western and central Nebraska.

Cleome lutea. East to Nebraska.

Cleomella angustifolia. Also in Colorado and Nebraska.

Viola palustris. Occurs in the Black Hills, South Dakota.

More or less inconsistency in the treatment of families is apparent; compare, for an example, the Ranunculaceae with the Cruciferae; in the former the genera are treated as collectives, while in the latter they appear as segregates and are naturally much clearer. We are pleased to note that the Cruciferae is the best described family in the fascicle.

The book has very few typographical errors, but the often copious foot-notes spoil the appearance of the pages. The matter contained in these notes might better have been incorporated in the text. A curious statement occurs on page 42, where we are told that *Eranthis hyemalis* is "a relict of former cultivation." On page 191, Table Mountain is given as the locality for *Hudsonia montana*. Table Rock is meant, as Table Mountain is not in North Carolina, but in South Carolina and is a very different place. Dr. Gray confused these two names many years ago and botanists seem to have been unable to get them right since.

J. K. SMALL.

Our Edible Toadstools and Mushrooms and How to Distinguish Them is the title of a volume recently issued by the well-known firm, Harper & Brothers, New York. The author is W. Hamilton Gibson, who has for a long time given special attention to the

subject here set forth. Previous American booklets, reports, etc., bearing on this subject have been less extensive, complete and satisfactory, yet they have been, as it were, skirmish lines that have made this one possible. It contains 337 pages, and, according to the title page, 30 colored plates and 57 other illustrations. The full-page plates are 38. An "Introduction" of 40 pages is no less interesting and important than the body of the work, which is devoted to the descriptions and illustrations of about 30 edible and a half dozen or more poisonous or suspected species. The descriptions are given in a general or popular style, followed in each case by a more condensed and systematized one, but in both all unnecessary technical terms are avoided, inasmuch as the work is especially designed for those who simply desire a better acquaintance with our most common and easily-recognized esculent species, so that they may feel safe in collecting and using them for food. Great care has been taken in placing safeguards around the genus *Amanita* that there might be no danger of an invasion of its dangerous precincts. Indeed, as a concession to the ignorance or carelessness of such as might otherwise make serious mistakes, this line of safety has confessedly been drawn so rigidly as to exclude from use even some well-known edible species. Nevertheless, the author has done well in showing the worthlessness of many popular rules and tests for discriminating between the good and the bad, and in insisting upon a sufficient knowledge for the recognition of each species to be eaten, save in a few exceptional genera.

The work is enriched by a list of the edible fungi of North Carolina, taken from the catalogue of Rev. M. A. Curtis, by a history of a successful use of atropine, the antidote of amanitine, in a case of dangerous mushroom poisoning, by a series of thirty-four recipes for preparing, cooking or preserving mushrooms, and by three pages of bibliography pertaining to the subject. Marginal indices and a general index at the end of the volume facilitate reference to any subject.

In a work so full of good things and so generally accurate and reliable as this is, one feels like uttering only words of praise and commendation and passing in silence the very few mistakes that might by a critical mind be taken as blemishes. Happily those

that have met my notice are so few and of such a character as not to interfere at all seriously with the design and usefulness of the work, and perhaps would scarcely be noticed by any one except a close student of mycology. Such a one might say there was some mistake in the rather sweeping assertion in the description of *Russula virescens*, that "a faint fluting of the edge" is "a peculiarity of all the Russulæ;" and also that there must be some error in describing the spores of *Boletus alveolatus* in one place as "rose-colored" and in another as "yellowish-brown." There is also quite a discrepancy between the characters assigned in this work to *Clavaria formosa* and *Lycoperdon saccatum* and those found in European works, so that I suspect some misconception of these species, but I do not see how these mistakes can lead the mycologist into any serious danger.

The publishers have evidently done their part toward making the book attractive. Plates, press work and paper are all good.

We believe that this very useful and creditable volume will be the means of giving a renewed and stronger impulse to American mycology, and that those who are fortunate enough to obtain it will soon be demanding the means of obtaining a knowledge of other species which will attract their notice and which are no less desirable and available for food than those here described.

CHARLES H. PECK.

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 30TH, 1894.

The President in the chair and 34 persons present.

The committee on admissions reported favorably on the nominations of Miss Annie E. Hamilton, Mrs. Archibald D. Russell, Dr. F. C. Stewart and Mrs. Theron G. Strong, and they were elected active members, the Secretary being directed to cast an affirmative ballot.

The following announced papers were then presented:

"Notes on the Morphology of the Leaves in *Galium*," illustrated by specimens and drawings, by Mr. A. A. Tyler.